



# California Libertarian News

Volume 5, Number 10

February 1991

LPC State Convention February 15-18

## SPEND PRESIDENTS' DAY IN MONTEREY!

Libertarians from throughout California will gather in Monterey on Presidents' Day weekend, February 15-18, for the Libertarian Party of California's annual State Convention. This year's theme is "The Best of Libertarianism."

The convention will feature party business such as election of officers, election of national convention delegates (the LP Presidential Nominating Convention will be held in Chicago in August), election of National Committee representatives, and debate on proposed changes to the by-laws and platform. This year the business sessions will be held separately from other events, so that delegates can also attend the multitude of lectures, debates, banquets, and social activities.

Convention speakers will include **Richard "Dick" Boddie** and **Andre Marrou**, candidates for the LP's 1992 Presidential nomination; **Russell Means**, American Indian activist; **Virginia Postrel**, editor of *REASON* magazine; **Kai Chen**, a Chinese human rights activist; **David Boaz** of the Cato Institute; and **Kathleen Pierce**, manager of a nude dance club.

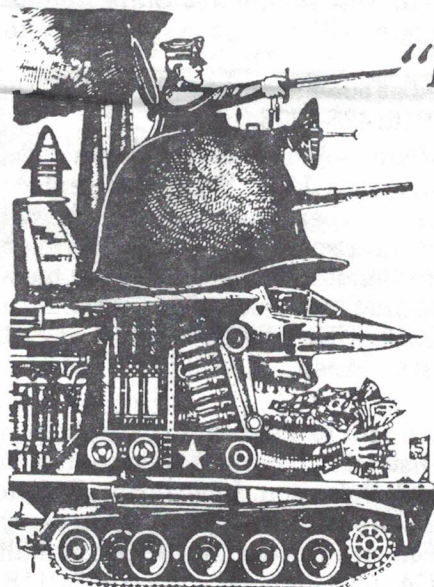
Special events will include a debate between **Steve Alexander** and **Michael Emerling** on "Should the Libertarian Party Accept Matching Funds?" and a Saturday night banquet "roast" of **Andre Marrou**. The Samuel Adams Luncheon will honor 1990 Libertarian candidates. There will be planning sessions Saturday and Sunday led by **Willard Michlin** with the goal of involving registered Libertarians in the party and getting Libertarians elected to non-partisan local offices.

Three candidates have announced their candidacies for State Chair: incumbent **Gail Lightfoot**, former Southern Vice-Chair **Kim Goldsworthy**, and former San Diego chair **Pat Wright**. Interviews with all three start on Page 3. Treasurer **Willard Michlin** will run for Southern Vice-Chair.

The location is Holiday Inn Resort Monterey, 1000 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940. Call (800) 234-5697 for reservations, and mention you are with the Libertarian Party convention. Convention packages cost from \$90 to \$210. For more information, contact Libertarian Promotions, P. O. Box 3395, San Diego, CA 92163, (619) 497-1085.

**See you there!**

CLNews



**"Forward  
to the  
new  
world  
order!"**

—A. Hitler, 1939

—G. Bush, 1991

**Shut down the war machine**

## THE VOTE FOR WAR

On January 12, 24 of California's 45 members of Congress, plus newly-appointed U. S. Senator John Seymour, voted to authorize President Bush to use military force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. 20 voted against, and one (Democrat Mervyn Dymally) was absent. Sen. Alan Cranston was the only senator absent.

We hope the people of California will remember these interventionist warmongers when they vote in 1992. Unfortunately, federal officials can't be recalled. All of the Republicans voted to support Bush's position, except for Frank Riggs of Mendocino County, newly elected over a Democratic incumbent. We applaud his courage.

Most Democrats were opposed to the immediate use of force. There were six exceptions: Glenn Anderson, Howard Berman and Mel Levine (all of Los Angeles), Tom Lantos (San Mateo), Gary Condit (Modesto), and Richard Lehman (Fresno). We hope their liberal constituencies dump them as quickly as possible!

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## RESOLUTION AGAINST U. S. INTERVENTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Adopted by the Libertarian Party  
National Committee 8/12/90

Saddam Hussein's intervention into the internal affairs of Kuwait by rolling tanks across its border has outraged the world as an act of naked aggression. Any such military incursion not required for the defense of a nation's territorial integrity must be soundly condemned by all who believe in justice.

Notwithstanding this act of war, we, the National Committee of the Libertarian Party, support our party platform's strong and consistent opposition to foreign interventionism, including the affairs of the Middle East, and condemn the Bush Administration decision to send American troops to Saudi Arabia and call for their immediate recall.

A military blockade is an act of war. American youth should not be sacrificed to defend monarchies, nor artificial national boundaries drawn by previous generations of foreign politicians. Iraq's marauding despot is no direct threat to America's security. His pernicious cause is only advanced by the insertion of American troops into the present turmoil. The residents of the region are the best defenders of their own interests against Saddam Hussein's aggression. The Ba'ath movement, Hussein's so-called Arab Socialism, will fall the same way that the socialist movements of Europe are falling—from the moral and economic bankruptcy of socialism.

The Republican and Democratic politicians supported Iraq after its unprovoked invasion of Iran, subsidizing Iraqi grain purchases with American taxpayers' money. They continue to fund aid to countries guilty of occupation and annexation comparable to that perpetrated by Iraq. The hypocrisy of their alleged concern over the most recent Iraqi aggression is an embarrassment to the founding principles of the United States.

The Libertarian Party stands ready and eager to lead America back to a commitment to those principles of free trade and friendship with all nations and entangling alliances with none.

## NOTABLE QUOTES

*"War isn't broccoli. It's too important to be left to the tastes or hunches of a single man."*

—Christopher Matthews, syndicated columnist

*"I don't want to sound sanctimonious about this, but I was elected to govern."*

—President George Bush

*"In the heartland of America, some folks just can't understand what Congress is up to."*

—Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas)

—in Congress since 1961.

*"As I look around me today (in Congress), I see more people who remind me of Daffy Duck than of Thomas Jefferson."*

—Rep. David Obey (D-Wisconsin)

—in Congress since 1969.

*"If you want to see your plays performed the way you wrote them, become president."*

—Vaclav Havel

—playwright turned President of Czechoslovakia

## TRYON WINS 5.1% IN SPECIAL ELECTION

On January 8, voters in the 5th State Senate District voted in a runoff election to select a successor to fill the seat formerly occupied by the new Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi. The results were:

Patrick Johnston (Dem)	53,467	56.9%
Philip Wallace (Rep)	35,667	38.0%
Thomas Tryon (Lib)	4,769	5.1%

**Tom Tryon** is a Calaveras County Supervisor and the highest-ranking Libertarian officeholder in California. In 1990 he ran for California State Controller, and at that time aired 78 ads on network television in the Sacramento market. The same ads were redubbed for the State Senate race and \$7,500 worth of them aired again on network TV. The total campaign budget was \$8,500. The winner, a state assemblyman, spent \$600,000. Tom reports that media coverage was good, notably in the *Stockton Record* and in the local Calaveras/Amador paper.

The vote total was better than average for a Libertarian in a special election. Voter turnout was low—about 22%—which includes most of the core elements of the Democratic and Republican parties, plus people with a privilege to defend, such as teachers' union members. Tom's best tally was on his home turf—20.7% in Calaveras County. Such a showing in a contested partisan race shows that Tom will have no trouble holding his supervisor's seat. He plans to run for a third term in 1992. **CLNews**

## MORE SPECIAL ELECTIONS COMING UP

Three more special elections will be held on March 19. We reported in December that Libertarian **Gary Dusseljee** will run in the 1st State Senate District, where voters will choose a successor to newly-elected U. S. Rep. John Doolittle (R-Rocklin). Gary can be reached at 505 Factory St., Nevada City, CA 95959, phone (916) 478-1776.

State Senator John Seymour (R-Anaheim) was recently appointed to the U. S. Senate to replace Governor Pete Wilson. Libertarian **Eric Sprik** will seek to succeed him in a special election in Orange County's 35th State Senate District. Eric is a businessman and longtime activist with REACT, a gunowners organization. He can be reached at 831 Pine Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, phone (714) 650-7072.

A special election will be held in Stockton's 26th State Assembly District to replace newly-elected State Senator Patrick Johnston. Libertarian **Debra Klohs**, who ran for the seat in 1990, will again carry the party banner. She can be reached at 7018 Shiloh Place, Stockton, CA 95209, phone (209) 957-0118.

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## THE CANDIDATES FOR STATE CHAIR



**GAIL LIGHTFOOT**

- \* Registered Nurse
- \* Mother of 3, grandmother of 3
- \* Charter Member, Libertarian Party
- \* Regional Chair and ExecCom Rep. 1980-89
- \* State Party Secretary 1989
- \* State Chair 1990



**KIM GOLDSWORTHY**

- \* Age 34, resident of Rosemead
- \* Computer programmer, graduate of Cal State L. A. with a B. A. in philosophy and psychology
- \* Former Chair and ExecCom Rep., Region 63
- \* Southern Vice-Chair 1988
- \* Candidate for Congress ('86,'88) and State Senate ('90)
- \* Member, American Institute of Parliamentarians



**PAT WRIGHT**

- \* Graduate of Coleman College with a Bachelor of Computer Science
- \* San Diego LP Chair 1985-88: increased membership from 60 to 360
- \* Organizer, LPC conventions ('88,'90,'91)
- \* Candidate for Congress ('84) and Assembly ('86)
- \* Campaign manager, Dennis Thompson for Congress ('88)

**Why are you running for State Chair? What is the main goal you wish to accomplish in 1991?**

**Lightfoot:** I plan to run for chair because not running implies two things: that I feel that I have done all that can be done and that I support one or more of the declared candidates. I have not met my goals for the LPC. I cannot support any of the declared candidates at this time, because they have not been active at the state level this past year, nor have they spoken to me about their ideas and/or plans for 1991 or the 1992 election.

My primary goal is the organization of all those tasks that would be carried out in an office by paid staff, freeing activists to concentrate on political action. My secondary goal is to convince activists to communicate more effectively and members to get involved.

**Goldsworthy:** I have served as a local chairman, state ExecCom representative, convention delegate, and Southern Vice-Chair, besides having run as a candidate for Congress and for State Senate. After seven years of steady activism, having "learned the ropes" through actual practice, I am the best man for the job of California LP chair. I have learned things about campaigning, marketing, fundraising, public relations, management, parliamentary procedure, and privatization that few libertarians know. The most natural way to tap these talents of Kim Goldsworthy is to elect him as the party chairman.

President Bush wants to be known as the "education president." My goal as 1991 chairman is to be known as the "documentation chairman." Everything that the state central committee does will be

oriented toward election year 1992. Presently, we have too much of an "oral tradition"—our ExecCom minutes are a mess, and committees (what few there are) are not writing down their procedures and results. The 1992 incoming ExecCom representatives shall receive (1) last year's minutes, standing resolutions, and standing rules, all bound; (2) a handbook on what their duties are as members and as representatives; (3) an organization chart; (4) a roster, with committee assignments; (5) a revised "business plan"; (6) copies of the officers' handbooks, so that everybody knows what everybody else does.

**Wright:** I am concerned about the lack of progress in building the LPC. I would like to see the party focus on realistic goals, mainly new members and non-partisan races.

**The LP showed great gains in the 1990 election. How will you keep the momentum going? Where do you see the party in five years? In ten years?**

**Lightfoot:** We can maintain our growth with designated fundraising, increased communication, coordinated candidate efforts, media contact at the local level, and activist networking. In five years we can be worthy of media recognition, and in ten we could begin to elect members to the State Assembly.

**Goldsworthy:** In Utopia, the year 2000 will see the LP privatizing everything. Our membership records and renewals are contracted out to a database company. Our independent accountant writes the checks, our public relations firm (or retainer) writes our weekly press releases and uploads our video press release to the satellites, while scheduling our spokes-



man on major radio and TV shows. Our paid petitioners collect our signatures. The for-profit fundraising company we retain executes our seasonal fundraisers. A private firm stuffs and mails our direct mail persuasion package to voters who have voted in the last two elections. Our legal suits are a mix of "pro-bono" and paid. Our full-time lobbyist is busy in Sacramento shmoozing with the Assembly Speaker. Meanwhile, our local activists are speaking to high schools and colleges, running our cable network, and running for office in both partisan and non-partisan races. That is what my crystal ball shows me, regarding internal organizations, if we do everything right.

**Wright:** The increased vote totals for Libertarians last November was because of the political climate, not because of our political expertise. As for where we should be in five or ten years, let me defer to Thomas Carlyle, who said, "Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

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***Dues paid membership has remained rather static for several years, and monthly pledging on the part of members has dropped. What can be done to improve the situation?***

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**Lightfoot:** Renewal reminders in every issue of *CL News* with reply envelopes. Remind lapsed members 3 times. Newsletters to all expired members yearly. Mailing to all registered Libertarians yearly. The state newsletter is the key to involvement. *CL News* is the LPC to the average member. If the newsletter excites them, they will maintain their memberships and contribute to ongoing or special projects. Our appeals for involvement and pledges should be an integral part of the newsletter.

**Goldsworthy:** Regarding dues paying membership: The key here is de-centralization. The state party is limited as to its "clout" in this regard. The LPC will grow IF AND ONLY IF the individual counties grow. To accomplish this, I shall appoint a membership czar (I prefer "regional godfather") who will foster the growth activities of organized counties. Another membership czar (let's call him "regional god" because he "creates something out of nothing") shall prospect the unorganized counties for enough registered Libertarians to join the LPC to acquire representation to the state executive committee.

Regarding monthly pledging: It is the duty of the Chief Executive Officer of all non-profit corporations to see that the "givers of green" stay happy campers! As party chair, I will personally telephone each pledger to thank him for his generous pledge, and ask him to *double* his pledge! In the LPC of 1991, pledges take first priority in the chairman's hierarchy of access! This is true in all successful organizations.

**Wright:** The LPC has been less than adequate at renewing old members and prospecting for new

members. The pledgers are probably wondering what they are getting for their money. Start building membership with careful mailings and professional follow-up, and the trend should reverse.

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***Is the State Executive Committee an effective policy-making body? Would you change its composition or responsibilities in any way?***

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**Lightfoot:** "The ExecCom is responsible for the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party . . . the primary duty of the ExecCom (is) to develop, fund, and implement a political strategy to elect Libertarians . . ." This describes a working committee, not a policy making body. I would ask that every member of the committee agree to serve on a working committee.

**Goldsworthy:** Regarding the Executive Committee's quarterly meetings, I have big plans! Here are five: (1) Committees! The "committee system" will be reintroduced to increase depth of discussion while minimizing debate time.; (2) Homework! All or most representatives will have committee assignments—research and writing will replace opinions and bickering; (3) Job Descriptions! Out going officers shall write a handbook of tips and duties for the incoming officers; (4) Goals! Every person, and every project, will have written goals, so that we can MEASURE what worked and what didn't; (5) Training! If we need a skill sharpened, we shall either privatize that skill (i.e. get outside help) or get a paid professional to train that person or committee. The policy shall be: "Don't depend on amateur talent if a professional touch is demanded."

As chairman, I welcome a large number of Executive Committee members (unlike others who favor shrinking the committee) because I shall *delegate* tasks instead of flopping them into the lap of the Operations Committee. I will involve both northern and southern reps in the decision-making because I am aware that northern Californians presently feel uninvolved.

**Wright:** The state ExecCom is too large. I favor shrinking it so it can be an active, not reactive body.

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***Should the State Chair be the Chief Executive Officer of the party, or instead a party spokesperson and/or meeting facilitator?***

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**Lightfoot:** Chief Executive Officer i.e. Administrator. Until we can afford an office with paid staff, this is our greatest need. We should have a list of "experts" to act as media spokesmen available to all regions, media contacts, and the 800 number service. Meetings should be less formal, with a parliamentarian at the chair's side for assistance if needed.

**Goldsworthy:** Our by-laws state that the chair is the CEO of the party. I find it curious that the uniqueness of the Libertarian population does not reflect itself



in its by-laws. There must be someone who calls the meeting to order, and someone who runs it. It need not be the chair.

When I vote for a party chair, I hope I'm voting for a person with a *vision*. I want someone who will *lead*, in all the positive senses of the word. The LPC has not yet had anyone so trained ever become state chair, at least in my years of activism. I would like to change that. My northern and southern vice-chairs shall be taught what "leadership" entails.

**Wright:** The state chair should strive to set goals for the party and make sure things get done and run smoothly. I am not running for chair because I want to be party spokesman. There are many Libertarians who would make better spokesmen. I am running for chair because I want to see growth!

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***What is the role of the state party organization? Is local activism more important than activism on a statewide level?***

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**Lightfoot:** The state party should limit its role to tasks that can be done more efficiently centrally or in greater numbers. This includes *CL News*, outreach, campaign and other literature, 800 number, mailing to registered Libertarians, internal education how-to's, office tasks, and networking. Local activism is what gets our members involved and that is what will build an effective political organization.

**Goldsworthy:** The state party should do little, once Utopia is reached. Other than lawsuits and a newsletter, everything else should probably be decentralized. Unfortunately, Utopia is not here yet. We still have unorganized counties. We have weak counties. We have new, untrained local chairs. We have no internal education. We have no countywide registration drives. It is only because so few counties can be independent that the state party must monitor Sacramento bills, mail renewal notices, offer bounties for new members, recruit candidates for public office, etc.

**Wright:** The state party should provide direction and organization for the local organizations. The state party can do things the local organizations can't, and has the advantage of economy of scale. The local parties are needed for the more nitty-gritty details. For the LPC to be an effective political party, we have to have both state and local organizations.

## **"FREE TO CHOOSE" TO BE AIRED**

"Free to Choose," a series of television programs about the free-market hosted by economist Milton Friedman, will air starting February 10 on the Consumer News and Business Channel (CNBC). Four of the programs were first shown several years ago, and there is one new show as well. Check your cable TV listings for the exact dates and times that the five shows will air.

**CLNews**

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** **Other Views on Batra's Book**

### **Editor:**

The letter from Tom Erickson (Jan. issue) is the second I've seen in a libertarian publication extolling the virtues of Ravi Batra's book (*The Great Depression of 1990*). Such letters demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of free market economics. Batra promotes totalitarian economics, which should be evident to anyone who has the ability to read between the lines.

Just one example is his analysis of the cause of the debt bubble, which he blames on free enterprise. Its cause is clearly the socialist (government owned and operated) monetary system and deposit insurance, under which system all losses seem to have been socialized. Another is his incredible call for setting maximum wage levels.

For anyone who wishes to pursue the true cause of what I fear may well be a 1990s depression, I'd suggest any of Hans Holz's recent works, as well as my own private correspondence with Bob Poole and others (which I'd be happy to send anyone for \$10). My biggest concern is that people will remember Batra as the economist who predicted the depression, and later seek him out for solutions.

**Doug Thorburn, EA, CFP**  
P. O. Box 7301  
Van Nuys, CA 91409

### **Editor:**

For some months now I have been urging fellow Libertarians to get hold of *The Economic Time Bomb*, by Harry Browne. Unlike Ravi Batra's disappointing book, which calls for more state intervention, Browne has written a forthright brief for the free market—in exceptionally simple and plain language.

Decades of blundering have inexorably narrowed Big Brother's choices to runaway inflation or liquidation (deflation). The upshot will depend on a political decision that has yet to be made. Those who get no pleasure from gambling with their life savings will want to use Browne's "permanent portfolio" strategy, the main subject of the book, which is designed to survive in the face of severe and unpredictable gyrations in the economy.

The book's warnings of catastrophes to come, written two years ago, have been eerily prophetic—can you say "Bank of New England"? Buy it, read it, share it ... while there is still time.

**Alan T. Furman**  
Sunnyvale

**California Libertarian News** is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor: **Ted Brown**, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568-8404



## YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

by Robert Bakhaus

Voters rejoicing over their successful imposition of term limits on incumbent legislators might want to get their second wind. They'll need it if reform momentum is to be maintained. Not only will term limits be tested in court someday, they may prove not to be a very meaningful reform anyway.

Consider the November 30 action of the Citizens Compensation Commission on state salaries (created by Proposition 112—June 1990 ballot). The commission just raised all the top boys' salaries by as much as 40%. This commission's rulings are not subject to approval by anybody, least of all the public.

California's legislators have long been the highest paid in America. But now they just got a \$1,000 per month raise. Commission Chairman Claude Brinegar (Nixon's Secretary of Transportation) said, "We tried to set salaries to attract a good range of candidates." Common Cause lobbyists applauded, saying, "Elected officials' pay should be commensurate with their responsibilities."

By that logic, we presume the Commission and Common Cause would back \$1,000,000 salaries for Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, the Iranian priest-kings, and other such dictators. After all, you do want to attract a good variety of money-grubbers to do the work of enslaving people.

Whatever happened to the citizen legislator, the volunteer in a good cause? Unfortunately, an inescapable by-product of trying to force people to be good instead of merely peaceful is that you corrupt the legal process. By requiring public officials to be unlimitedly active, you have to give them more latitude, more power, more money, more room to be dictatorial. That destroys them and us.

*(Robert Bakhaus is chairman of the Santa Barbara Libertarian Party. This article is reprinted from CONTRACTUALIZE, P. O. Box 22930, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.)*

## BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT AVAILABLE

The By-laws Committee has voted to propose several changes that would significantly affect party organization and operations. These include shrinking the size of the state executive committee, rules for electing county officers, and limiting the terms of party officers and executive committee members.

If you expect to be a voting delegate at the convention, you will want to study these proposals beforehand. A copy of the report is available from **Jerry Douglas**, 4919 Alatar Drive, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Please include SASE and \$1 to offset costs. The report will also be given to delegates on the convention floor before debate commences. **CLNews**

## FREE MARKET ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER BEGINS PUBLICATION

There's a new publication on environmental affairs—"The Free-Market Environmentalist" (FME). Its focus is the principles of free-market environmentalism, and their application to current environmental issues.

The editor/publisher, Mike Gemmell, says, "Having worked in the environmental field in the area of ground water contamination, I have been profoundly disturbed by its direction. It is my belief that the environmental movement, if unchallenged, will cause great damage to our political freedom and economic prosperity."

Topics to be discussed include property rights for air, water and soil; reducing chemical risks to the environment without government regulation; and the faulty scientific methods supporting global warming and ozone hole theories.

Subscriptions to this bi-monthly publication cost \$48 per year. Send to The Free-Market Environmentalist, 1572-D Sycamore, Box 329, Hercules, CA 94547. **CLNews**

## COURT DECISION HELPS TAX RESISTERS

The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled 6-2 that a person who sincerely believes he is exempt from tax laws may not be jailed for a criminal tax violation. The case, *Cheek v. U. S.*, does not allow for wholesale violations of tax laws. It merely allows a defendant to present his beliefs to the jury, which can then decide if they are sincere or phony. Either way, the defendant would still owe tax and penalties. He may just avoid a jail sentence.

The IRS stated that it audited nearly 1,000,000 tax returns in 1989 and assessed extra taxes and penalties on 837,423 taxpayers. Only 171 persons were criminally prosecuted for willful or intentional violations.

Thus, this decision may not be too far-reaching in tax cases.

However, the case sets a good precedent in that it allows a defendant to present his beliefs and reasons for violating the law to the jury. This can only help the cause of jury nullification, wherein the jury has the right to judge the law as well as the facts in a criminal case.

We suggest, however, that readers who may contemplate any legal violations consult with an attorney before doing so. **CLNews**



## DIRECTORY

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Modem parameters 8,N,1:  
Modem speeds 300/1200/2400 baud

#### National LP Headquarters:

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1528 Pennsylvania Ave. S. E.,  
Washington, DC 20003

## County Chairs or Contacts

(figure in parentheses is dues-paid membership)

Alameda (89)	Wayne Nygren	(415) 889-9216
Butte (8)	Jessica Strock	(916) 893-3836
Calaveras (4)	Tom Tryon	(209) 736-4845
Contra Costa (30)	Mike Rother	(415) 932-4993
El Dorado (8)	Richard Akin	(916) 622-4785
Fresno (9)	Jack Sanders	(209) 485-0489
Inyo/Mono (1)	William Baucum	(619) 878-2288
Kern (10)	Vicki Williams	(805) 833-0140
Lake/Napa/Mendocino (16)	Randy Grindle	(707) 994-4817
Los Angeles:		
61 S. F. Valley (114)	Bernard Zimring	(818) 785-0384
62 Westside (163)	Bob Weber	(213) 204-0612
63 Foothills (62)	Ken Saurenman	(818) 574-8181
64 Central L. A. (60)	Michael Everling	(213) 487-5199
65 Downey (26)	Ray Acosta	(213) 727-5979
66 South Bay (59)	Cullene Lang	(213) 595-6266
67 East San Gabriel (29)	Jim Brownfield	(714) 623-5914
Marin (19)	Bob Bickford	(415) 927-4814
Merced (2)	Roy Shimp	(209) 723-1768
Monterey (11)	Robert Ratto	(408) 424-9346
Nevada (3)	Gary Dusseljee	(916) 478-1776
Orange (137)	Roger Bloxham	(714) 642-2002
South County	Jim Rushing	(714) 494-6266
Riverside (39)	Ron Holman	(714) 684-3218
Sacramento/Yolo (42)	Bryce Bigwood	(916) 758-6219
	or David Henderson	(916) 922-9973
San Bernardino (27)	Ed Moss	(714) 986-6677
San Diego (379)	Jim Lorenz	(619) 276-1776
San Francisco (52)	John Whisman	(415) 921-6008
San Joaquin (6)	Debra Klohs	(209) 957-0118
San Luis Obispo (21)	Howard Dilbeck	(805) 466-1998
San Mateo (30)	Lyn Sapowsky-Smith	(415) 368-8148
Santa Barbara (19)	Bob Bakhaus	(805) 965-2741
Santa Clara (221)	Steve Alexander	(408) 554-1119
Santa Cruz (37)	Tom Coughlin	(408) 458-2603
Shasta/Tehama (12)	Ross Crain	(916) 529-0853
Solano (6)	Mark Moberg	(707) 864-1673
Sonoma (24)	Jim Oglesby	(707) 894-2658
Tulare (17)	Roy Kendall	(209) 732-3237
Ventura (47)	Aaron Starr	(805) 583-3308
Other Counties (19)		(800) 637-1776
Total (1858) as of 11/30/90		



## Libertarian Party of California

286 Greenhouse Mkpl. #362  
San Leandro, CA 94579

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation  
of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I choose to set my dues at: ☐ \$25 (basic)  
☐ \$50 (sustaining) ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Life Membership (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ National LP Membership (add \$25 to LPC dues) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Additional Donation (Thanks for your support) \_\_\_\_\_  
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I would like to help by providing (volunteer time,  
computer skills, printing, legal work, or anything  
else) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

\*Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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## CALIFORNIANS REFUSE TO REGISTER ASSAULT RIFLES

In June 1989 the California Legislature passed a bill requiring the registration of all assault rifles by December 31, 1990. Governor George Deukmejian, elected as a pro-gun candidate, signed the bill into law. The National Rifle Association (NRA) estimates that there are 300,000 assault rifles such as Uzis, AK-47s, and AR-15s in private hands in California.

Penalties for failure to register range from a minimum \$350 fine to a misdemeanor jail term and/or fine or a felony state prison sentence. Even so, Californians only registered about 12,000 of the 300,000 rifles by the deadline. The NRA believes that the failure to register is a demonstration of massive civil disobedience against a clearly unconstitutional law.

The 2nd Amendment to the Constitution states that "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Anti-gun activists interpret this to mean that only the militia is entitled to keep and bear arms. They fail to note that U. S. Code, Title 10, Section 31 states that the militia of each state includes "all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and . . . under 45 years of age."

Former Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Arizona) wrote, "... the Founding Fathers conceived of an armed citizenry as a necessary hedge against tyranny from within as well as from without, that they saw the right to keep and bear arms as basic and perpetual, the one thing that could spell the difference between freedom and servitude."

The only time the U. S. Supreme Court has taken up the 2nd Amendment was in 1939, in *U. S. v. Miller*. The defendant was charged with transporting an unregistered sawed-off shotgun in violation of the National Firearms Act of 1934. Justice James McReynolds, an arch-conservative who opposed most civil liberties, wrote:

*In the absence of any evidence tending to show that possession or use of a "shotgun having a barrel of less than 18 inches in length" at this*

*time has some reasonable relationship to the preservation or efficiency of a well-regulated militia, we cannot say that the 2nd Amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear such an instrument. Certainly it is not within judicial notice that this weapon is any part of the ordinary military equipment or that its use could contribute to the common defense.*

Sawed-off shotguns, it is true, are not considered ordinary military equipment. But assault rifles, pistols and other types of firearms definitely are. Perhaps the Court would have ruled differently if the weapon involved could have been used by a militia to repel enemies, foreign or domestic. Unfortunately, the *Miller* case sets a bad precedent if the matter goes before the Supreme Court again in the future.

Besides the assault rifle registration law, Californians will now be subject to a 15-day waiting period before they can take possession of a purchased shotgun or rifle. The delay has applied to handgun buyers for years. Of course, the names of all purchasers will be added to government files, so that officials will know where to go to confiscate such weapons if they feel a desire to do so.

There are 288,000 or so assault rifles that government officials won't know where to find, however. As Edmund Burke said, "The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion." Libertarians are glad to see that some people have not been deluded. They know that without widespread ownership of firearms the people would have little defense against oppressive government.

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